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CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER
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MAKING CITIZENS

PUBLICITY has its uses, but not always is it directed to the worthiest ends. Many a noble work goes on—day after day, year after year—receiving little approval or encouragement from the people because the people know little or nothing of it.

There is at least one enterprise being carried on in this country of which everyone of us should be aware and for which everyone of us should give thanks. It is the making of citizens out of the thousands of boys and girls who have transgressed the code which must govern a civilised community, and who need special guidance if they are to grow up and take their rightful place in the life of the nation.

Under the wing of the Home Office, all over the country, in what are known as Approved Schools, these boys and girls are getting the training for life which many of them failed to get in their own homes. This work is not new ; it began, in fact, with the earnest endeavours of the warm-hearted pioneers of Victorian times who founded the first Reformatory Schools ; but this work, carried on so unobtrusively, has developed considerably since those early days, and has marched forward in step with more enlightened views on the proper treatment of young offenders, be they wayward, frustrated, or merely over-impulsive.

LESS than a century ago their lot would have been imprisonment for long periods in unreformed prisons—all too often, alas, a prelude to a life of crime. But we have progressed far in our understanding of the causes of law-breaking, and we now know that many of these causes lie not in the character of younger citizens but in the conditions of housing and social life in which they grow up. Tender plants can never flourish in poor soil.

These Approved Schools (a convenient title, without stigma, but which, however, does not appear in the names of individual schools) are a distinctive British contribution to the making of new men and women. Where some authorities might advocate imprisonment and arbitrary punishment, these schools plead for a second chance. In some cases it is the only chance for a boy or girl to learn to go straight, and in the friendly, happy atmosphere of such schools the citizen in the making is taught the way to lead a full, happy, and honourable life.

TRUE citizenship is learned far more by action and by example than by the reading of text-books. These schools for new citizens are moulders of character. They are founded on a belief in work and method—the building of a house, the tending of a garden, the management of a farm. These are among the acts of citizenship which change old characters for new, and bad old habits for good new ones.

These schools are a first-rate investment for the nation, with rich dividends. Instead of many thousands of cases of delinquency we have many thousands of citizens in the making, a humane policy with boundless possibility.

Think of what this quiet, unheralded revolution means—to have schools and sympathetic teachers instead of prisons and warders. There is more than a spark of imagination about these citizen schools ; there is an unswerving belief that these thousands of young hearts and minds are a national asset of incalculable worth.

They represent a wealth worth harvesting and gathering into the nation's barns with all the care that a human harvest should command, and this method of making citizens is based on the faith that the young citizen who has slipped into bad ways can be helped to walk in good ones and contribute his gifts

To make this earth our hermitage,
A cheerful and a changeful page.

IN other words, the high birthright of our common citizenship is inherited by everyone whatever early failures there may be, and it is our national duty to ensure that everyone has a chance to enjoy this heritage and contribute to its riches.



The Cookery Class

An earnest pupil at Derby Street School, Bolton, carefully weighing the ingredients of her cake before baking it. Judging by her intent expression, the Cookery Class is her favourite.

DON'T MALIGN THE WORM

WE often use figures of speech that are not apt at all. For instance, we too often speak of an unpleasant person as "a perfect worm "; yet the common earthworm, now becoming more active in our gardens, is one of our best friends.

The days of digging for Victory and now for digging after Victory have made worms familiar to most of us. We know that they are good for our gardens, but it is not generally realised what a priceless asset the curious creatures are.

The worm does not burrow like other animals, it literally eats its way into the ground. When it is full it returns to the surface, ejects the earth it has swallowed, and then eats its way down again. The ejected soil, or worm-cast, is fresh soil from below, which is thus brought up and spread upon the surface. Worm-casts on the lawn are rather unsightly, but they are easily rolled down, and they make an excellent top dressing. Our gardens are thus constantly being turned over by the worms, even if we ourselves are neglectful.

Sometimes dead leaves can be seen sticking up in the flowerbeds or lawns, which, when pulled up, are found to have been sucked down into the burrow of a worm. Worms line their holes with dead leaves for warmth; they feed on them, and also use them to close the entrances to their burrows, so that they can remain near the surface and still be safe from birds. The dead leaves quickly decay beneath the ground and form that most valuable of manures, leaf-mould.

Sometimes, however, worms get into the soil of a plant growing in a pot. Here their zealous activity is not so welcome, because they work a lot of fine earth down among the crocks at the bottom and these, instead of providing drainage, become a sodden mass. An outside pot-plant, when withering or turning yellow, can often be revived by repotting and placing beyond the reach of these perpetual delvers.

By continually turning and manuring our gardens and ploughland the earthworms keep the soil fertile. Without them the plants and trees we know today could not exist.

So don't malign the worm.

Statecraft Under Cover

THE recent bitter weather has tested the endurance of the hardiest among us, but it is certainly true that some people can withstand the cold more than others. Twas ever thus, and we are reminded of an amusing story concerning two great 18th-century statesmen who, however unanimous in their political views, were certainly poles apart in their ideas of a comfortable temperature.

It happened that one day the Duke of Newcastle called at the home of the great Lord Chatham on a matter of the utmost urgency concerning the Navy, and found the Premier in bed with gout. The temperature was well below freezing-point.

Chatham could not endure a fire, whereas Newcastle was quite incapable of enduring the cold. There was in the room a second, unoccupied bed, and into it, fully clad as he was, the visitor hastily popped. Presently someone entering the room found the two statesmen discussing the affairs of the nation, each snug in his own bed and each, doubtless, warming to the subject.

We are not told if they were engaged in heated argument.

LORRY LOADS OF ANTIQUES

A STRANGE convoy left Cornwall the other day. Never perhaps in the history of the county had such a convoy set out.

It consisted of seven lorries, loaded with 70 tons of stone relics, ranging from holy water stoops, or basins, to prehistoric coffins unearthed from the ageless Moor. There were granite staddles, too, which once did duty in Cornish rickyards, where they stood like mushrooms to support the corn mows and stacks, their overhanging caps preventing rats from climbing up into the ricks. There was also a roadside trough from which thirsty horses used to drink in the old coaching days. Heavy millstone tables, giant granite bowls, and cider presses were other antiquities in this museum on wheels.

Of course the convoy aroused much interest in every village and town at which it stopped on its way to Datchet, in Buckinghamshire. People begged to be allowed to buy some of the legacies of the distant past, and even went so far as to chalk their names and addresses on the piece they fancied. Now, these historic stones, typical of our westernmost county, had been purchased by an engineer and inventor to whose home they were going. He had seen them lying outside a Cornish cottage and stopped to inquire if he might buy two "mushrooms " to flank the garden gates of a centuries-old cottage he had just bought in Surrey.

To his surprise, the owner who, like many Cornish folk, had made a hobby of accumulating the carefully-worked stones of forgotten ages, offered to sell him the whole venerable collection—lock, stock, and barrel or rather, bowl, stoop, and staddle! And so a deal was made. It took three days to load the convoy.

The ultimate destiny of these stones will be alien to the intent of the craftsmen who fashioned them long ago. They will be converted into garden furniture, rockery ornaments, and bird baths.

Some Cornish folk are quite naturally feeling rather "put out " that the antiques should have left their native heath.

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BRITAIN'S NEW INSURANCE CHARTER

At last a great new insurance scheme, covering practically every one of us, has been planned—some of its provisions to come into force, it is anticipated, next autumn.

This new National Insurance Bill, introduced by the Minister of Health, is based largely on the Beveridge Plan and the National Government's White Paper, both of which aroused such interest and hope during the war years.

In the past, millions of our people lived out their lives ever haunted by dark spectres marring the beauty of even their happiest moments; by the fear of being out of work, of falling ill and being unable to work, of a poverty-stricken old age, of dying and leaving their children uncared for. The Health, Unemployment, and Old Age Pensions Acts have done something to relieve those crushing fears, but they were only a beginning. We British people today believe that a community cannot call itself truly civilised until it has banished the dark shadow of social insecurity.

The new scheme is comprehensive; everyone is to contribute to it and everyone is to benefit. Under it the weekly contributions we shall all have to make are greater than those paid now, but the benefits are also greater.

When the scheme is in full running order, every man over 18 working for an employer will pay 4s 7d a week and every woman 3s 7d, and this will cover unemployment, sickness, maternity, widowhood, and old age. Self-employed men, such as traders, artists, doctors, professional men, will pay 5s 9d, women 4s 10d, those of no occupation, such as persons with private incomes, men 4s 8d, women 3s 8d. Employed boys under 18 are to pay 2s 8d, girls 2s 2d. But students and apprentices will in some cases be exempt from payment.

At present an employed man over 21 pays 1s 11d a week and a woman 1s 7d; employed boys and girls pay less.

However, benefits under the new scheme are altogether better and more far-reaching. Today, if a compulsorily insured breadwinner is unemployed he receives in benefit 40s a week and 5s for each child maintained by him; under the Bill he will receive 42s a week, 7s 6d for his eldest child and, under the Family Allowances Bill, 5s for each of his other children.

In sickness the difference is greater still. For whereas now a married man away from his work through illness receives only 18s a week, he will in future be paid 49s 6d, including 7s 6d for his eldest child.

One of the most heartening aspects of the scheme is the help it gives to women and children. At present a widow's pension is 10s a week if she has no children. Under the new scheme a widow's allowance, subject to certain qualification, will be 26s a week, and even 33s 6d if she has a child of school age. There is a big increase, too, in orphans' allowances. At present 7s 6d a week is paid on behalf of an orphan, but in future 12s will be paid to child's guardian.

At present no allowance, but a fixed grant, is paid to mothers at the time they have their children, but in future a mother will be given a maternity allowance of 36s for 13 weeks or an attendance allowance of 20s for four weeks, both in addition to a grant of £4. No longer will future British citizens come into the world under poverty-stricken conditions.

Retirement pensions are increased from the present flat rate of 10s a week for an insured man, with 10s for his wife if over 60, to 26s a week and 16s for his wife.

Employers and the State will as now contribute a considerable proportion to the cost of the scheme. When it comes into operation Britain will have one of the best social insurance systems in the world.

British Aid For Greece

Whatever the Soviet or other countries may feel about the presence of the British in Greece, that unhappy country is urgently in need of a helping hand before she can start on the long road to economic recovery, and Great Britain has agreed to help her.

Greece is to receive a loan of £10,000,000 from us, free of interest, for the purpose of stabilising her currency. Our loan of £46,000,000 in 1940 and 1941 is to be made a gift. In addition, we are to give Greece immediate aid in kind by sending her half a million pounds' worth of consumer goods, including clothing, and by making available from our military stocks materials which Greece urgently requires to repair roads, bridges, railways, and ports, and to rebuild houses. Greece's coastal shipping will also be assisted.

As a condition of this aid, the Greek Government will control prices and the use of production, and will adjust wages with a view to assuring real wages.

Great Britain will give Greece such technical assistance as she needs to carry out this programme.

In announcing these arrangements in Parliament, Mr Bevin said that it was his firm conviction that democracy must be firmly based on the people, and that it could not flourish unless the common man was assured a reasonable standard of living. "Greece's record is unsurpassed," continued Mr Bevin, "and I am sure that the Greek people will show the same courage and determination in rebuilding their shattered country as they showed against the enemy."

The helping hand thus to be given to the land which can claim to be the cradle of European civilisation and culture will not be in vain. Greece will rise again.

BED AND BREAKFAST

During the recent bitter weather a dab-chick left the frozen river Stour at Ashford, and made its way among pedestrians and motor traffic along a street until it came to an open door. There it was picked up, given a warm drink, and put to bed. The next day it was taken back to the river—a dab-chick that had seen the world!

France Faces Facts

A leading Socialist, M. Gouin, having been elected to succeed General de Gaulle, has formed a new Government in France. He has chosen six from each of the three chief Parties—Communists, Socialists, Popular Republicans—and one who is independent of these parties.

This newcomer to office is M. Longchambon, and he is to be Minister of Food, which all Frenchmen agree is today the most difficult problem in their sorely-tried country.

The policy of M. Gouin's Government is to make food a first priority, with administrative reform next. Finance is to be adapted to the country's requirements, and in this matter military expenditure will be drastically reduced.

BRITAIN'S NEW REPRESENTATIVES

Two diplomatic appointments of prime importance have been announced.

On May 1 Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, our Ambassador in Moscow, will succeed the Earl of Halifax, who has been His Majesty's representative in America since 1941, and has helped to forge a precious link during critical years.

Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, who was recently raised to the peerage, was our Ambassador in Baghdad, and afterwards in China, before he went to Russia. He was recently selected to undertake a special mission to the Netherlands East Indies.

The other appointment is that of Sir Alexander Clutterbuck to succeeed Mr Malcolm MacDonald as High Commissioner for Canada. Mr MacDonald has been nominated as Governor-General of Singapore and the proposed Malayan Union.

Masters of Chess

Arturo Pomar, the Spanish boy of fourteen who came to London to compete with the great chess masters of the world, did well to win five matches and draw one, although he was only sixth in his particular section at the London tournament.

The London tournament ended in Dr Max Euwe of Holland and Mr Herman Steiner of the United States being the winners in their respective sections.

Dr Euwe won the chess championship of the world in 1935, but lost it two years later to Alekhine, of Russia.

Dr Tartakower of Poland, winner in the recent international tournament at Hastings, secured only a third place.

THE VOICE OF YOUTH

The World Federation of Democratic Youth, which was founded by the big youth conference held in London last November, has applied for consultative representation on Uno.

Under Article 71 of the United Nations Charter the Economic and Social Council may make arrangements for consultation with international organisations.

The World Federation of Democratic Youth, which is to have its headquarters in Paris, represents over 30 million young people in youth organisations of 64 countries. So the Voice of Youth will be heard in Uno deliberations.

WORLD NEWS REEL

People at Wilcannia, New South Wales, recently rejoiced in the first rain they had seen for seven years. They ran out of their houses and allowed themselves to be soaked in it. Many of the children had never seen rain.

The Chinese version of Mr Attlee's name is Aitehlh, which means "fostering uprightness and courtesy."

The Ontario Health Minister, Mr Russell Kelley, has advocated that 200,000 immigrants from the U K should be allowed to enter Canada every year.

Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten has been decorated by the King of Siam with the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant.

The cross-Channel service between Dover and Calais is to be resumed on March 4.

A Government White Paper has proposed the linking-up of the nine Malay States, Penang, and Malacca as a Malayan Union, with a Governor, an executive and legislative council, and a supreme court with a chief justice.

Coal production in the Continent of Europe, though still below the average of before the war, is increasing rapidly, France having reached 91 per cent and Belgium 73 per cent.

HOME NEWS REEL

Restrictions on the sale of photographic films, plates, and paper have been abolished.

The Special Service Emblem of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals has been presented to Alan Buckland, aged 17, for rescuing animals during the blitz.

Aided by a secret radar apparatus, the naval ice-breaker H M S Pollux recently steamed through a fog in the Thames Estuary without mishap.

A Committee of Atomic Scientists have been formed by British scientists who worked on the development of the atom bomb. They will explain published information on atomic energy.

Turf from Cliffe in Kent is being used to relay the Kennington Oval cricket ground.

The 70 priceless stained-glass windows of York Minster, stored in a safe place during the war, are being replaced. Some of the glass is 700 years old.

Luton Flying Club will provide training and flying facilities at £2 an hour on Austers, £3 10s an hour on Tiger Moths, and £5 5s an hour on Proctors.

The first bananas from the Canary Islands to be sent to Britain since the war are expected this month. The consignment will represent about 40 per cent of the islands' total crop, will weigh about 46,000 tons, and cost £2,000,000.

The most severe earthquakes since 1855 were recently experienced in Switzerland. Considerable damage was done.

Russia's new five-year plan includes schemes for waterways linking the Baltic, Black Sea, and the Arctic Ocean.

The Victoria Cross has been awarded to Private Frank John Partridge, Eighth Australian Infantry, for his heroism in attacking singlehanded a Japanese position on Bougainville in the Solomon Islands.

An International Agreement on the control of open-sea whaling has been made for 1946-47.

The Persian Parliament elected their new Prime Minister, M. Qavan es-Soltanah, by 53 votes to 51. His name means Pillar of the Sultanate.

Mr Harry Hopkins, special adviser and great friend of President Roosevelt, has passed away at the age of 55. He was awarded the American Distinguished Service Medal for his services in "welding our allies to the common purpose of victory."

Prefabricated ships in crates are being exported by Britain.

There were 5256 road deaths in 1945. At almost every age twice as many men and boys were killed as women and girls.

A large house near the House of Commons has been taken over as a place where M Ps may interview their constituents and also as accommodation for their secretaries.

The Education Committee of the L C C has been asked to approve the expenditure of £17,553,739 on London's educational services for 1946-47.

Major William R. Henderson, R A M C, of Edinburgh, has received the United States Bronze Star for saving the lives of American soldiers while he was a prisoner-of-war.

In ten months the girls of Crossborough Hill High School, Basingstoke, have sent nearly £30 to King George's Fund for Sailors.

Among donations for the rebuilding of the bombed church of St Alban's, Holborn, were some from Australia, South Africa, and America. Of the £60,000 required, £11,000 has already been received.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

The Cornwell Badge has been awarded posthumously to Wolf Cub Morris Williams, late of the 1st Yate (Gloucestershire) Scout Group, for his courage and cheerfulness during a long illness.

Members of a team of the Scout International Relief Service now in Europe gave a party to over 180 Polish children. Presents were made from the team's equipment which they had brought from England, supplemented by Red Cross supplies.

The Scout Gilt Cross has been awarded to Patrol Leader David Bruce, of the 1st Alderminster Group, for his gallantry in extinguishing and smothering the fire which had caught his friend's clothing following the explosion of a bottle of methylated spirit.

Cambridge Scouts are learning something of Police work from a series of talks and demonstrations arranged by the Chief Constable. They have already learned about the organisation of the Police Force and how finger-prints are taken.

A referendum of Boys Brigade Captains is being taken to decide the best pattern of cap to be worn by B B boys.

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Our Ancestors on the Ice

RECENT exhibitions of skating on frozen ponds and lakes have shown that there is always latent here a great reserve of ability awaiting the rare coming of ice. We may learn to skate as children, in the course of a single morning, and then remember for the rest of our lives, just as we remember how to swim or to ride a bicycle.

Mind and muscle combine in these early endeavours, and afterwards they seem to act in unison as by instinct. Our ancestors were skaters, but they used skates made of the legbones of animals, pushing themselves along by means of poles shod with iron. But the children of those times were the true masters of the art of pleasure with small effort.

They used to get the jawbones of oxen or horses, sit squarely down on them, and propel themselves along with their little spiked staffs at what seems to have been an astonishing rate. Their position may have grown a little cramped, but at least they returned home without bruises or contusions, which is not always the happy fortune of those of us whose apprenticeship was served on blades of steel.

MUCH FOR LITTLE

IN response to an appeal the Sunday-school children attending St Nicholas's Congregational Church, Ipswich, united last year in collecting used postage stamps and sending them to the local Queen's Hospital. The result has been that more than 750,000 were handed over, and, with the proceeds of their sale to collectors in foreign countries, the hospital has already been able to endow two beds and may be able to add more in the future.

HIGHLAND PROGRESS

THE Highland Economic Council, an offshoot of the Scottish Council on Industry, with headquarters probably in Inverness, is to plan and co-ordinate industrial development in the Highlands. This was announced recently by Sir William Y. Darling, M P, chairman of the industrial council.

This new venture has already been promised the full co-operation of Government departments, but will, however, remain outside Government control. The function of the council, Sir William has explained, will be to relate conflicting Highland interests and to foster the interests of the fishing industry, agriculture, hydro-electricity, the tourist trade, textiles, and any new industries.

SPEEDING-UP THE CABLE

USE of the new plastic material known as Polythene, which has remarkable dielectric properties, is helping to speed up the transmission of telegrams through the submarine cables. It is electrically far better than gutta percha. Our own telegraph authorities are experimenting with it as well as those of the United States.

0 FOR OINTMENT

TOURISTS to Scotland next summer will be able to offer their services for the testing of a new white midge ointment which has been perfected by a team of Scottish scientists.

Some 47 known types of biting midges frequent Scotland during the summer months, and the Scottish Tourist Association believes that this ointment is an answer to a great nuisance. It is spread over the exposed parts of the body, and although odourless is believed to repel all types of midges.

A midgeless Scotland will lure more visitors even than today.

Barrouallie Says Thank You

A VERY pleasant letter of thanks has come from the West Indies. It is from Barrouallie, in the island of St Vincent, a village of about 2500 inhabitants; and its Council have written to say Thank You for a dispensary, a better water supply, and other benefits received under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts.

The first of these Acts was passed in 1940, when Britain stood alone in the war, and the idea of them was to set going again those colonies which had fallen on bad times. The West Indies could no longer sell their sugar on which their prosperity largely depended. So, up to date, more than £10,000,000 have been spent in the West Indies on such things as those for which Barrouallie is saying Thank You.

The villagers have also been taught to grow plenty of food for themselves, and help has been given to the Better Villages campaign. The 4-H Clubs have also been helped by the Act. The four Hs are Head, Heart, Hands, and Health, and are dedicated by young people to their club, their community, and their country. Boys and girls are taught a good deal about farming, and the boys sometimes build kitchens in which the girls learn the best way to cook the fruit and vegetables that the boys have grown.

The letter from Barrouallie shows how very much the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts are appreciated.

THE ARCTIC REELERS

ESKIMOS of Repulse Bay in Arctic Canada are expert dancers of Scottish reels, and, moreover, they dance to bagpipe accompaniment. The explanation, according to a former Hudson's Bay Company factor, is that years ago the Repulse Bay Eskimos were often visited by Scottish whalers who taught them how to dance Scotland's world-famous reels.

HISTORY AS NEWS

IN many secondary schools a new method of presenting history as news has given boys and girls a far greater interest in the subject.

A firm of educational publishers have issued, as an experiment, half a million copies of ten bulletins in which historic events are reported in the form of a modern daily newspaper. Each news-sheet consists of four quarto size pages, having as a title a well-known date, such as 1666 (Great Fire of London) and 1815 (Waterloo).

For many boys and girls this new method of teaching has transformed history from a dull subject into one of living interest.

COAL FROM THE WATERS

MUCH has already been done at Dusseldorf to repair the devastation in the port area. Harbour walls and quays have been made good and 55 of the 59 damaged cranes repaired. Of even greater benefit has been the recovery of 25,000 tons of coal lying beneath the waters of the port.



Explaining a Movie Camera

At the Islington Studios, where a Columbia British picture, Christmas Week End, is being made, Boy Scouts from Hornsey examine the camera while Director Marcel Varnel, and Phil Grinrod and Dudley Lovell, in charge of lighting and cameras, explain its working.

NEW JUDGE-IN-CHIEF

NEXT to the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice ranks second among our lawyers. He presides over the King's Bench Division of the Royal Courts of Justice, and, generally, he is what his title indicates.

Lord Caldecote having resigned, his place has been filled by Lord Goddard, a judge of great experience and wisdom.

Lord Goddard was a distinguished sprinter in his young days, which shows that the study of the law and sport are by no means incompatible.

THIS ELECTRIC AGE

IN this first year of peace what does the British housewife want most? An inquiry sponsored by the British Bulletin of Commerce and conducted by the National Shopping Surveys shows that electrical appliances are the answer, with vacuum cleaners, irons, refrigerators, and washing machines high on the list.

It also appears from this survey that the younger housewives are prepared to spend much more than older ones on these appliances, irrespective of income.

CONGRESS PARTY AND FRENCH INDIA

THE Congress Party have asked the French authorities for permission to set up a branch of their party in Chandernagore, a town on the Hooghli river, 22 miles north of Calcutta. The administrator, M. Maurice Bazin, is to consider the request.

Chandernagore is a dreamy, half-forgotten French trading-station of about 32,000 people on a beautiful reach of the river. Many of the fine buildings erected when it was a flourishing settlement are now in a state of decay, and the jungle reaches to the main street. First settled by the French in 1688, it was twice captured by the British, but restored to France. The territory covers an area of three square miles. The time of its greatest prosperity was under Dupleix, who is commemorated in the Collège Dupleix.

THE BIBLE IN CHILE

MORE and more people in Chile are reading the Scriptures, report the British and Foreign Bible Society, giving details of their work there during 1944.

This South American country, cleverly described by John Gunther as looking on the map "like a bell-rope frayed at its southern end," has a population of 4½ millions, half of whom are reckoned to be illiterate. Nevertheless, the Society distributed in various ways there in 1944 no fewer than 192,295 Scriptures, a gratifying increase of 68,373 volumes over the previous year.

Watches From Wales

A NEW watch factory in Wales which is to start production this year is the first instalment of a big new British industry which is to employ fifteen thousand men and women.

Britain has always made good high-grade watches, but it has left to America and Germany the job of turning out watches and clocks by the million. Switzerland, too, has been a big producer of high-grade watches. Now Britain is to make watches and clocks on an unprecedented scale.

Before the war we were importing eight million watches and five million clocks each year. That supply was cut off, with the consequence that thousands of people have been watchless and clockless.

But the big demand for war purposes had to be satisfied. All the delicate instruments for fuses, gauges, and watches had to be made, and Britain has had 76 factories devoted to that alone. So, with the peacetime switch-over of these factories we have the beginnings of a new industry ready to our hands.

At present 25 per cent of the output of these factories is being exported. To supply skilled workers for this new industry the Government is establishing a School of Horology where young men and women are to be trained.

The knowledge we have gained during wartime will be put into this new industry, so that the cheapest watch will be a first-class timekeeper.

A Fine Wren Church

THE only Wren church in London, outside the City, St James's, Piccadilly, is to be entirely restored, despite the terrific punishment it took from the Luftwaffe. It may look a wreck to the passer-by, but even the debris around is being saved for the great day when the authorities give the word for the restoration to begin. The famous outdoor pulpit was practically unharmed, and so were the fine iron gates; and they will be back in their rightful places in due course.

Wren, who was very proud of this church, and said, when he began to build it, that it was "to hold 2000 people, and all to hear the service and see the preacher," would have grieved indeed to see what destruction was wrought by Nazi bombs. But the south aisle was not too badly damaged, and here every activity was carried on after the blitz.

The rector, the Ven C. E. Lambert, was out of London on that bad night, though his verger was killed. When he returned he at once had the south aisle bricked off and reroofed; and here, though the seating is only 150 instead of Wren's 2000, services have been held ever since, while all other activities have somehow been squeezed into the church room, which was the only undamaged part of the old building.

As far as possible, St James's will be restored to its former state and beauty. It will not be rebuilt, but born again.

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A Young Lion-Keeper

Denis August, a young lion-keeper at the London Zoo, with a family of seven-week-old cubs who are believed to be the only fourth generation of lions born in this country.

LIFE IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

A C N correspondent has sent us these notes after a flying visit to liberated Jersey and Guernsey.

THERE are still reminders of the German occupation. For instance, along the lovely sweep of St Aubin's Bay the Germans laid a railway track and built "pill-boxes" as part of their fortifications. Quite appropriately, German prisoners are now demolishing all traces of the occupation.

The real Channel Islander, of course, will tell you that he is not English, or anything else, but a Jerseyman or Guernseyman. Island rivalry is beginning again after five years in which communication was forbidden.

On the whole it seems that the Germans showed their better side during their occupation of the islands. Each child was allowed a pint of milk a day, and the children's health remained good; but adults lost weight, and for the most part, it seems, lived on a diet of potatoes and swedes. Of course, as most Channel Islanders have friends who are farmers, there were occasional "extras."

There was excitement, too. The minister hid his wireless set in his church organ and listened there regularly each day—a dangerous thing to do. Many people had a share in assisting the forced labour gangs of Russians and Poles to escape or hide, and one lady has photos of the Russian boy she helped—a poor, hunted-looking object when he arrived, but a stalwart, smiling lad when he left her care.

The sense of isolation was at its worst after the invasion of Normandy. Then the supplies of food from France ceased, and the Islanders were thrown on their own resources. There was no tea, and the coffee substitute was made of anything from dried acorns to what one man described as sawdust. A slice of pork was a fantastic luxury, and at least one family's Christmas dinner consisted of potatoes in their jackets, dipped in salt from the sea. The astonishing Jersey and Guernsey cows, however, continued marvellously to produce their milk with rich cream in it, from which butter could be made.

With the return of the airways the Islands feel part of the world again. They feel certain that many old and new friends will come to them this summer; and by that time they hope the Islands will have a fresh coat of paint and show a smiling face to the world once more.

For the Crew's Benefit

THE upper structures of new British ships are to be gay in colour schemes, and the sections where sailors work below are not being overlooked.

In the engine-room of a big ship the amount of ventilating trunks that snake into the remotest corners is amazing. In cold climates men below will get warm air and in hot zones cool air. The seaman's cry that it is all right above but stifling below will thus be dispelled. As heat cannot be allowed to escape from some sections, the cooling draughts will be directed on to the men.

To preserve food and health special cooling rooms are provided, and in addition the sickly smell of hot oil will be wafted away from the machinery spaces. Bulkheads, covered with perforated aluminium panels, will be soundproof, and instead of jangling machine noises flooding engine spaces they will pass through the perforations into fibrous material to be filtered and nullified.

A new type of colour scheme is also being tried out. Steam pipes and electric cables, together with the hundreds of pipes serving different sections of the ship, are in different colours, so that engineers can easily identify each pipe or cable if anything goes wrong. Previously they had to scan readings on pipes. The skipper on the bridge might say "there's something wrong with the lighting, telegraph, or power system," and a search for the offending cable would begin. Now he will say "power system wrong" and the engineers will know that they have to examine blue-coloured cables.

Heating Our Homes

WHEN cold, wintry weather sets Britain shivering, news about the heating of our homes is very much to the point.

The Government have recently published a report of the Heating and Ventilation Committee of the Building Research Board on the heating and ventilation of dwelling houses (Stationery Office, 2s 6d) which, it is to be hoped, will be studied and acted upon by all planners and builders of houses.

Britain, the report says, is technically backward in the provision of satisfactory heating appliances, and in insulating houses against the inroads of the weather, with the result that our homes are much less warm than American houses.

The committee attribute this technical backwardness partly to the abundance of cheap coal in Britain before the war. In view of the national importance of the right use of coal, the report continues, it is not sufficient to leave the whole choice of methods of heating to haphazard development. A planned policy, national in scope, is recommended.

British people have a traditional love for a bright coal fire. But, as Sir Reginald Stradling, chief scientific adviser to the Ministry of Works, has said by way of comment on this report, how are children to study at home if the only place where they can work in cold weather is round the fire, with the radio going, and other distractions?

The solution, of course, as the expert committee have pointed out, is the proper insulation of Britain's houses, and a heating system in every dwelling (in addition to the beloved coal fire), which will keep the whole house warm and comfortable.

FINE OLD CARRIAGES

AS we travel swiftly about in streamlined trains or cars, or fly from one part of the world to the other in a few hours, we are apt to forget the slow, stately journeys made by grandfather and grandmother in their fine old carriages; and in time we shall probably forget the wonderful craftsmanship and skill of the makers of these fine carriages.

To prevent this, the famous old tithe barn at Maidstone, Kent, may become a museum for the preservation of fine old English horse-drawn carriages on the lines of similar museums on the Continent. This barn was once used as stables by the Archbishops of Canterbury when they were in residence at the Old Palace, Maidstone.

The idea of the museum comes from Sir H. Garrard Tyrwhitt-Drake, a former Mayor of Maidstone and owner of the well-known private zoo, Cobtree Park. Sir Garrard himself has several specimens of fine old carriages which he would place on perpetual loan to the museum. One is a landau formerly owned by the late Duke of Connaught and used by him on all State occasions; another is a posting chariot at least 125 years old.

This fresh effort to preserve the last specimens of a fine old English craft deserves encouragement, and we wish the proposed museum every success.

The Editor's Table

Common Sense About the Atom

ARE we to use the mighty power of the atom for the world's benefit, or for its destruction?

Something interesting and practical about the possibilities of atomic energy and its uses in industry has been stated by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. They regard atomic energy as an *addition* to the world's power, which will certainly not replace our present fuels but will rather supplement them, in the same way that oil has supplemented coal. Their considered idea is that power plants of two hundred thousand kilowatts or so—two and a half to three hundred thousand horse-power—will combine atomic energy with their present gas and steam units.

How and when such a combination may be made is left for the future to decide!

❀

Freedom of the Air

WHILE few people will consider that 240 pence is too much to pay for 365 days of entertainment and uplift, there are those for whom the increase to £1 in the cost of a wireless licence will be a serious matter.

There are no half measures about doubling the price of the licence, and for elderly folk of small means one pound is a lot of money.

For these old folk the wireless is a very great boon in their hours of loneliness, and the vastly increased revenue should surely make it possible to grant to all old-age or disabled pensioners the *Freedom* of the Air.

❀

JUST AN IDEA

Though if need be you would probably die gladly for your family, be content to live peaceably with them.

HOME-MAKERS

THERE has been some interesting correspondence in The Times recently about the education of girls. One correspondent, a former headmistress of Colston's Girls' School, Bristol, has pointed out that, in her experience, domestic studies are a first interest for the majority of girls between 13 and 17. With the exception of a very small percentage whose interests are highly academic, says this correspondent, the most intel-

France's Chan

GENERAL CHARLES DE GAULLE has ceased to be the head of the French nation, and his place has been taken by M. Felix Gouin.

There are many French people, and others, who will regret that a change at the helm should have arisen just as France was beginning to struggle toward the light. Yet France has the stuff of greatness in her which, undismayed by present difficulties, will see to it that the good work of reconstruction goes on.

The name of the man who led free France through her darkest hours to victory will not be forgotten. General de Gaulle's place of honour in the history of

Under the E

BOYS and girls take advantage of frozen ponds. And let things slide.

⊡

MANY people want central heating. Some say it leaves them cold.

⊡

AN expert thinks furniture may be made from sawdust. That's fine.

⊡

MANY girls want to be chemists. Good mixers.

⊡

THE shoe queues are going. Going in, we hope.

PETER WANTS T



If birthday made wi

CARRY ON

On a Cold Morning

SOME people say it is a very easy thing to get up of a cold morning. You have only, they tell you, to take the resolution; and the thing is done. This may be very true; just as a boy at school has only to take a flogging and the thing is over. But we have not at all made up our minds upon it; and we find it a very pleasant exercise to discuss the matter, candidly, before we get up. This, at least, is not idling, though it may be lying. It affords an excellent answer to those who ask how lying in bed can be indulged in by a rational being—a rational creature. How? Why, with the argument calmly at work in one's head, and the clothes over one's shoulder. Oh—it is a fine way of spending a sensible, impartial half-hour. *Leigh Hunt*

The Rock C

IT seems no work of man's creative hand,
By labour wrought as wavering fancy planned,
But from the rock as if by magic grown,
Eternal, silent, beautiful, alone!
Not virgin-white like that old Doric shrine
Where erst Athena held her rites divine;
Not saintly-grey, like many a Minster fane,

MOST PRECIOU

IT is long since that I heard you were gone in haste into Yorkshire on account of your mother's illness; and the same letter informed me that she was recovered; otherwise I had then written to you, only to beg you would take care of her, and to inform you that I had discovered a thing very little known, which is, that in one's whole life one never can have any more than a

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OF TOMORROW

lectual have the interest for domestic studies as keenly as have the less intellectual; and she adds that we have much yet to achieve to provide a curriculum which meets the interests of girls between 13 and 17.

We agree entirely with this commentary. In our view the future happiness of our homes demands that every girl should receive a proper training in domestic subjects, based on reason rather than "rule of thumb."

ge of Leader

the six years' struggle for freedom is assured.

We trust that France, the cradle of so much that has been fine in art, music, and democratic thought, will rise to further glory under her new leadership.

The Noble Lady

THAT fine promoter of peace, Lord Cecil of Chelwood, has proposed that women should be eligible to become members of the House of Lords. And why not? The worth of the second chamber would be enhanced, and the woman's point of view, as in the Commons, would receive due and proper expression.

Two-Way Trade

CANADA has set the world a fine example in the principles of international trade. Mr MacKinnon, her Minister of Trade and Commerce, has declared that in future Canada is to pay just as much attention to imports as to exports.

Only too often in the past, Mr MacKinnon said recently, did countries throw the emphasis on increasing export trade while paying but scant attention to the corresponding obligation to increase imports; trade can only flourish on a two-way basis.

Canada, one of the world's chief granaries, is going to sell her wheat abroad at a controlled price, much less than she could obtain if she were bent upon making herself rich at the expense of less fortunate countries. At the same time she has appointed, in every important trade centre of the world, commissioners who are to promote imports into Canada.

This broad, unselfish outlook is what the whole world needs, and Canada deserves great honour for her gesture.

The Teaching of Russian

THERE is a growing demand in Britain for the study of the Russian language, and a committee of the Foreign Office have concluded that the time is more than ripe for starting an experiment of two-year intensive courses in some of our grammar schools.

The Minister of Education supports this proposal, and has sent a circular to local education authorities and governing bodies of grammar schools telling them so. The Minister has stated that she will take up the question of including Russian in the syllabuses of school examinations.

Russia's important position in world affairs certainly demands a wider knowledge of her language. Such knowledge will lead to understanding of our mutual problems and ideals.

ditor's Table

A MAN has made a fortune as a contractor. Did he never expand?

PUCK O KNOW



cakes are th dates

A STEEPLEJACK when on holiday climbs steeples for fun. Always up to something.

THERE is a barrier between those who like opera and those who don't, says a composer. A bar of music.

WHEN the British Museum reopens it will contain no mummies. Except those with children.

ity of Petra

That crowns the hill, and consecrates the plain; [dawn
But rosy-red as if the blush of
That first beheld them were not yet withdrawn.
The hues of youth upon a brow of woe,
Which man deemed old two thousand years ago,
Match me such marvel save in Eastern clime,
A rose-red city half as old as Time. *John Burgon*

IS POSSESSION

single mother. You may think this is obvious, and (what you call) a trite observation. You are a green gosling! I was at the same age (very near) as wise as you, and yet I never discovered this (with full evidence and conviction, I mean) till it was too late. It is thirteen years ago, and seems but yesterday; and every day I live it sinks deeper into my heart. *Thomas Gray*

The Great Erasmus

ERASMUS was a Dutchman,
Erasmus was a wit,
There never was a foolish thing
But he made fun of it:
He laughed at stupid lazy monks,
At pompous shams and lies,
And grave reforming men who thought
None but themselves were wise.

Erasmus was a scholar,
He sought out what was true
In all the learning that was old,
In all thoughts that were new;
Time cannot take away his fame
Nor yet his memory dim,
Erasmus was a scholar, and
We all remember him.

From a Rhyme Book of Christian Men, by Vera E. Walker (Student Christian Movement Press, 3s)

WISE LIVING

IT is impossible to live pleasantly without living wisely and well and justly; and it is impossible to live wisely and well and justly without living pleasantly.

Epicurus

A London Kerbside Book-Mart

THE famous Farringdon Road bookstalls are approaching their hundredth birthday. Nobody quite knows when it will be, though John Burns, one of their most regular and distinguished patrons, might have been able to say.

There was not much that Honest John did not know about his beloved London, his birthplace. He was a South London man, from Battersea, and South London also has its old-established street market for second-hand books and other second-hand oddments, in the Lower Marsh, between the Waterloo and Westminster Bridge Roads. But John Burns loved to cross the Thames and browse along Farringdon Road whenever he could.

George Jeffery, who owns five of the Farringdon bookstalls, knew him well, and venerated him, and purchased many of his books after he died. George is not the oldest of the few book-dealers left in the market, which had twenty not many years ago. The doyen of the market is Mr H. Davidson, who is over 70, has dealt there for more than fifty years, and remembers Gladstone well as a frequent customer.

Statesmen at the Bookstall

Great Liberal statesmen of the past were particularly fond of the Farringdon bookstalls. John Morley, Augustine Birrell, Asquith, as well as Burns and Gladstone, paid frequent visits and acquired many treasures for their fine libraries from this source.

Mr Jeffery is only 54, not old enough to remember Gladstone, who died in 1898. But he was already a bookstall "man" in the market at the age of 16, and has traded there ever since. He has served many eminent customers, statesmen, distinguished scholars and clergy, wealthy connoisseurs from the City and the West End, poor students who rose to fame and fortune in due time.

They will all be glad to know that despite the shortage of second-hand books, which Mr Jeffery told the C N was serious, both at the sales and privately, trade in the market is not too bad.

When Mr Jeffery first began business there was sometimes, as he put it, "a rare scramble" for pitches—"first come, first served." But latterly the introduction of licences has brought peace and the end of all disputes and quarrels.

A YOUNG LEADER OF MEN

VERY few youths can have had such stirring adventures as Peter Newsome who, in the early part of the war, left an English public school to become an apprentice on the British ship Tantalus.

In 1941, when Peter was only seventeen, his ship was sunk in Manila Bay, in the Philippines. He was captured by the Japanese, but escaped. Later, he led a thousand Filipino and Chinese guerillas and, with the aid of American paratroops, helped to set free thousands of Allied prisoners of war.

For his bravery, enterprise, and leadership Peter has been awarded the British Empire Medal.

A NATIONAL RECREATION CENTRE FOR YOUTH

BISHAM ABBEY near Marlow, with its lovely grounds sloping down to the River Thames, has been offered on loan to the Central Council of Physical Recreation as a national centre for its all-important work, and an appeal for £20,000 has been made to help this and similar projects.

This ancient building, so gently touched by the hand of time, belongs to a lady whose two nephews, Berkeley and Guy Paget, of the 60th Rifles, were killed on active service; and because she and her sister feel that a suitable memorial to them would be one serving the needs of youth and vitality, they would like young people from all over the country to have the opportunity at Bisham Abbey of expert training under the wing of the Central Council of Physical Recreation.

A Worthy Memorial

The Council believe that Bisham Abbey would make an excellent national recreation centre, for, apart from its richness in beauty and tradition, it has splendid facilities for athletics, swimming, rowing, and other sports so dear to the hearts of the young and so much needed. "Thus," they say, "it would make exactly the kind of memorial which the owner has in mind."

Certainly this is the kind of worthy memorial for which the C N has pleaded more than once, and we may all hope that this generous offer to dedicate a fine old house to a fine new purpose will in due course bear a rich harvest. For Bisham Abbey is not only a lovely house in lovely setting; it is a house with great historic associations.

A fascinating example of an ancient house is Bisham Abbey today, a rambling patchwork of the centuries, with tall chimneys and stepped gables and a delightful bay window from Queen Elizabeth's time. The house is chiefly of mellowed Tudor brickwork, but it still has a splendid 13th-century doorway with rich mouldings.

The priory church has gone, and with it all but the memory of famous men brought here to rest. And truly is Bisham Abbey linked with great names in English history.

Here were laid four Montacutes, Earls of Salisbury, the first of them the priory's founder. He it was whom Edward the Third sent to arrest Roger Mortimer in Queen Isabella's room at Nottingham, paving the way for one of the most momentous reigns in our history. The second earl fought like a lion at Poitiers and was betrothed to the Fair Maid of Kent, but was not allowed to marry her. The third earl, a great friend of Wycliffe's followers, was executed by his enemies for treason, and comes into Shakespeare in Richard the Second with a cry from the heart at the thought of the king's bitter doom:

Ah, Richard, with the eyes of heavy mind,
I see thy glory, like a shooting star,
Fall to the base earth from the firmament!

The fourth earl, Thomas de Montacute, was one of our most famous soldiers in the French wars of his day, fighting at Agincourt and dying after the siege of Orleans.

Through this earl's daughter Bisham passed from the Montacutes to another proud family, the Nevilles, and here in 1471 was laid the proudest of them all, Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, none other than Warwick the Kingmaker, who for the greater part of his life had been the most powerful man in the land, and was the outstanding figure in the Wars of the Roses.

One Day of Liberty

Before the 15th century was out one more earl had come here to his last sleep, Edward of Warwick, the unhappy young man who for reasons of state was shut in the Tower by Henry the Seventh for the last 14 of his 24 years. One day of liberty only did he have, a Sunday when he was marched through London that the people might see he was not in Ireland, where Lambert Simnel had impersonated him.

That is part of the historical background of ancient Bisham Abbey, and it can readily be seen that it has taken no small part in our island story. As a national recreation centre it would have a strangely different role, but a role no less distinguished, no less worthy.



THIS ENGLAND

A view of the historic Bisham Abbey, Berkshire

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The Pleasures of Melancholy

A ONCE-FAMOUS poem called The Grave, still with many readers, has a claim to attention this week, for it was on February 4, exactly 200 years ago, that its author, Robert Blair, then a man of 36, bade farewell to life.

The Grave is an unrhymed poem of 767 lines, generally sombre as its title, but with splendid passages, tracing all human life, however exalted, however lowly, to the inevitable end, yet with the grave as the door to life eternal.

As the one literary labour of a scholar who was a true poet, such a subject may seem today a morbid choice. For Robert Blair was a happy man, with ample resources for songs of gladness.

Born in 1699 at Edinburgh, at whose university, as at a university in Holland, he was educated, and a member of a distinguished family, he became a minister, when 32, at Athelstaneford, East Lothian. There he married and became the father of talented children, and there he wrote the one poem that keeps his name alive.

Some of his phrases are part of our quotation currency. The schoolboy who "whistled to keep his courage up" is Blair's fancy; so is "Visits like those of angels, short and far between," a line that Thomas Campbell afterwards borrowed and adapted. But, again, it may be asked, why should a man so fortunate choose a theme so cheerless?

Blair lived in an age of sentimentality, of mock solitude in fancy grottoes, in an age that demanded poetry and prose to feed an appetite for melancholy. Men might ride and hunt and shoot, but in the quiet of their homes they enjoyed reading of grief and death.

Young's long and mainly desponding Night Thoughts appeared at the same time as The Grave, and the two had a prose rival in Meditations Among the Tombs. But, of course, the supreme example in our literature is Thomas Gray's exquisite Elegy in a Country Churchyard, first published in 1751; and this passion for sadness, melodiously expressed, endured until the French Revolution tuned the poets' lyres to martial strains.

Blair's poem appeared in 1743, only three years before his death, yet early enough for him to realise that he had achieved an immense poetic success. More than half a century later another poet, who was also a supreme artist, was engaged to illustrate a new edition of the poem. William Blake was asked by his employer, a shifty rascal named Cromek, for 40 illustrations for The Grave, but was paid for only 12. Most of them, unfortunately, are lost.

With Blake's pictures, one of which was grimly entitled, The Gambols of the Ghosts, Blair's book enjoyed renewed favour, and was often reprinted. The poem continued a favourite of those of our ancestors who, as foreigners said, were inclined to "take their pleasures sadly."

BEDTIME CORNER

Two Clever Mice

THE mice were having a splendid time. The farm barn was full of food, and their fierce enemy, Mr Cat, seldom hurt them.

"How friendly Mr Cat is now!" said the mice.

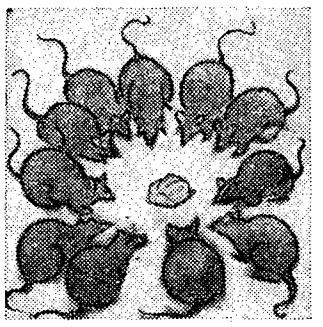
But the truth was Mr Cat was growing old and weak, and he did not at all like going without his meals. So he formed a plan.

He won the trust of the mice by playing with them fairly, and then said, "My dear little friends, I am very sorry for the cruel things I did to you in my thoughtless youth. From this day you shall go where you like without fear of any attack from me, but you must accept me as your king, and march before me in procession every night."

At this the mice went mad with joy. After their tea, they marched in single file past their old enemy, each making a low bow.

As the last mouse passed, cunning Mr Cat seized his little subject, and killed it before it could give the tiniest squeak. The number of mice was so great that at first none noticed this daily seizure.

But there were two mice who gradually became suspicious. They were husband and wife, called Neenee and Bibi, and one of their little ones had been last in the procession and had disappeared. They talked the matter over, and one evening when the march started, Neenee headed it and Bibi walked at the very end. All



the time the procession was winding past Mr Cat, Neenee kept crying out, "Are you there, Bibi?"

And Bibi shouted in reply, "I am coming, Neenee!"

Mr Cat saw that if he pounced upon the last member of the march past all the mice would know it, so he had to go hungry.

Much to his anger, though, he found that Neenee still headed the next march, while Bibi brought up the rear, calling to each other all the time.

Down pounced the disappointed animal into the middle of the procession. But, as all the mice had been warned, they hastily scattered, and Mr Cat was left hungry in the empty barn.

A NEW ERA IN PHOTOGRAPHY

NOW that the war is over, we shall see some wonderful changes in photography.

Not the least of these will be the new films, so fast and sensitive that it will be possible to take fully-exposed snapshots with the cheapest cameras even in dull weather. Films and plates can be made today a thousand times faster than they were fifty years ago, twenty times faster than they were in the days before the two great wars. This has been done by using excessively small quantites of newly-discovered "sensitisers" which are added to the material with which films are coated.

Another invention for speeding-up the camera is the coating of the lens with a transparent medium which prevents reflection. When light falls upon a glass surface, not all of it passes through the glass, but a great deal is reflected back and lost. This loss is overcome by the coated lenses, which are not only made twice as fast but give immensely improved images.

A novelty which will probably become common in the most costly cameras is an electric shutter which operates by itself. A photo-cell, or electric eye, fitted in the camera, measures the strength of the light, opens or closes the iris of the lens and times the exposure. Thus all pictures are automatically correctly exposed.

Plastic Lenses

All modern lenses are made of combinations of two kinds of glass—crown and flint; but today plastic materials can be made of synthetic resin which have the same refractive power as the glasses. Lenses which bend rays of all colours so as to come to the same focus—known as achromatic—have thus been made by combining two kinds of plastic lens, and this possibility may make it possible for inexpensive cameras to have a far finer performance.

A strange discovery is that of speeding-up photography three or four times by placing the film, after it has been exposed in the camera but before it is developed, under an excessively feeble light for about an hour. The effect of this does not apparently fog or hurt the image, but it enables the speed of the film in its original exposure to be increased by at least three times.

Thus, with more transparent lenses, faster films, and the new discovery of light treatment after exposure, the photography of the future will be incredibly fast, and all kinds of new work will become possible. Photographs can be taken in foggy weather with infra-red films, and with the added enormous speed pictures can be taken at very high altitudes from aeroplanes with telescopic lenses.

Smart Work

A 28-YEAR-OLD Bristol dustman, Mr Reginald Jefferies, has won the £250 Ruskin Scholarship awarded annually by the Trade Union Congress for a thesis on economic and social science. This will give to him the benefit of a year's tuition at Ruskin College, Oxford, and if he makes progress in his studies the scholarship will be renewed annually until he has taken a diploma in social science.



Students in a Model Coalmine

Two young students at the Training School for Miners at Bestwood, Nottinghamshire, being taught their craft in the School's fully-equipped model coalmine.

SEA PICTURES TO HELP SEA CADETS

THE Navy League's first Naval Art Exhibition which is open at the RBA Gallery, Suffolk Street, London, until February 23, is to benefit sea cadets; for the Daily Telegraph, by paying all the expenses, enables the entire proceeds to go to the Navy League's Sea Cadet Corps Appeal, which is a memorial to Lord Lloyd, a former president.

The sea cadets will also benefit from the generosity of members of the Society of Marine Artists whose pictures are on view. One-third of the payments the artists receive from the sale of these works is to go to the sea cadets.

All who love the sea and cherish the memory of the Navy's heroism in the war will be thrilled by these pictures, nearly all of which portray the lives and ships of modern sailors. Many of the pictures have been loaned by the War Artists Advisory Committee, others are from the Navy League's own collection of paintings by famous artists, and one room is devoted to the work of members of the Society of Marine Artists.

Many aspects of our sailors' wartime experiences are expressed in these paintings and drawings, some of which are by new artists and many by marine painters of long standing. Thus a new member of the SMA, Stanley Rogers, has contributed an oil painting called The Torpedoed Tramp which vividly emphasises all the tragedy and heroism of the ordeal so many sailors endured in the war. The picture shows a familiar tramp steamer, her bows submerged, while in two boats the crew are pulling away and gazing back at their vanishing ocean home.

But it is an old hand who has contributed some of the best pictures. He is Mr Charles Pears, President of the SMA, who has three paintings in the SMA gallery and is well represented in the other sections. Perhaps the most impressive of them is his Spithead By Moonlight, which depicts battleships passing one of the old round sea forts; his rendering of moonlight on the spume-crested waves is masterly.

All the artists have had first-hand experience of the scenes they have drawn or painted, and one, Claud Muncaster, went to sea before the mast in a sailing ship in his early days. The love of the sea and ships is aglow in all these colourful works.

The exhibition is open from 10 a m to 5 p m on week days only; admission is one shilling. The CN is confident that many well-spent shillings will go to swell the funds of our future sailors—the sea cadets.

Six Years of Test Cricket

REAL Test Match cricket returns this summer with the visit of a team from India; moreover, at the Imperial Cricket Conference at Lord's recently tours were arranged for the next six years.

Cricket enthusiasts have much to look forward to, for each season until 1952 there will be visiting teams from India, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, West Indies, and Australia, in turn, and all will meet England in a series of Tests. During the coming winters the MCC will pay return visits, although not in the same order. India has come to the fore greatly, and for the first time she will meet the West Indies, in 1946-7, and Australia a year later.

When the MCC goes to Australia next winter an experiment in standardising the hours of play will be tried. There the matches will be of 30 hours' duration, spread over six days, with the playing to a finish of the last match, if necessary, to decide the Rubber. When the Australians come here in 1948 the conditions will apply over five days. Although this arrangement is in the nature of an experiment, it is unlikely that the Boards of Control will return to the days of shorter Tests, especially if the matches are decided without need for the play-to-a-finish last Test.

CAPE TOWN SHARKS

BATHERS in the Sea Point area of Cape Town left the water hurriedly when a shoal of about 100 blue-pointer sharks came close inshore. These sharks, however, rarely attack humans, and probably came in on the warm current which sweeps around the Table coast area at this time of the year.

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GULLS IN THE GARDEN

A FEATURE of the recent spell of cold weather was the daring of the gulls in their search for food. They came inland in force, and many towndwellers were thrilled by their graceful evolutions as they swooped low to take the scraps put out for the more regular feathered visitors to back gardens.

To most people all sea-birds are just gulls, but of gulls alone there are actually seven main kinds round the coasts of Britain, and they all have different characteristics; from the dainty Little gull, eleven inches long, to the Greater black-backed gull, 27 inches long, with a wing span of about three and a half feet.

The three larger gulls—the Greater black-backed, the Herring, and the Lesser black-backed—are scavengers and pirates. They are reputed to catch, and hold under water until drowned, any smaller, maimed, or wounded sea-bird. The skins of puffins and shearwaters have been found turned inside-out and quite emptied of all flesh after their feast. These big gulls normally live on rats, mice, smaller birds, garbage, and any carrion they can find.

Next, some 16 inches in length, comes the Common gull, which has a white head and body, with blue-grey wings and back, and black and white wing-tips.

The Kittiwake, a much more graceful bird in appearance and flight, spends most of its time at sea following boats. Its food is mainly shellfish and small fishes; it has even been known to take a small mammal, but there is little of the pirate about it.

The Black-headed gull also is graceful, but its habits are nearer to those of the three largest gulls. Size, however, restricts its activities in piracy, and it is a voracious feeder on moths and other insects. It is more frequently seen away from the coast than the other gulls, and sometimes steals food from the plovers in the fields.

The Little gull is like the Black-headed, but takes more food from the surface of, or just under, the water, and so may frequently be seen diving.

Frequently among the gulls will be seen brown-speckled birds, some with patches of brown marks. These are the young birds; they are practically full size, but they remain in juvenile plumage for two or three years.

Gulls do an enormous amount of good in various ways. First and most important is their work behind the plough. It is no uncommon thing to see the furrows behind a three-furrow plough covered by a white and grey mass of gulls, interspersed by the black of an occasional rook. Near the coast the gull has largely taken the place of the rook and crow in clearing the ground of leather-jackets, wireworms, and similar pests.

Gulls also serve us in other ways. It is an unfortunate truth that there are places where careless or unscrupulous people allow offal and other polluting material to enter our rivers, or to lie in open places. This the gulls seize on eagerly.

To the usefulness of the gulls can be added their beauty of form and flight. Their immaculate white and lovely shade of blue-grey attract and satisfy the eye with their freshness, except near some of our larger commercial docks, where, unfortunately, the general dirt finds an easy billet on their white feathers. At their best, gulls would find few people to deny their beauty, and in all their flying they are superb, as many inland watchers have now seen.

ROUND THE WORLD WITH BSA

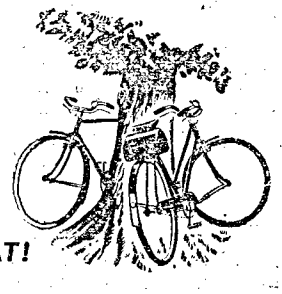
No. 19



TANGANYIKA

From Tanganyika comes one of the strangest stories ever told. There a famous hunter witnessed a furious battle between an elephant and a giant ape in the vast forests covering the middle slopes of Kilimanjaro. The ape, squatting at the foot of a tree, was disturbed by the elephant, and with monstrous fangs displayed, made one swift leap and seized on the elephant's trunk, biting it ferociously while the elephant trumpeted madly as it lunged to and fro trying to dislodge the ape. At last the ape dropped off, but kept turning back and snarling with rage as it lumbered away.

It is a far cry from these wild scenes to the port of Tanga, with its modern roads along which fortunate B.S.A. owners pedal happily—though of course B.S.A. Bicycles have been short over there just as they have been here. But keep in touch with your dealer—he will soon be able to supply you.



BSA

THE BICYCLE YOU CAN'T BEAT!

B.S.A. Cycles Ltd., Birmingham, 11.

Australia's Ambassador

AUSTRALIA has sent to Britain a new "ambassador" in John A. Beasley, known in Australia as "Battling Beasley." He comes to Britain in a double capacity, for he remains a member of the Australian Cabinet. The new method of representing Australia in Britain will have a worthy exponent in John Beasley.

A tall, outspoken Australian, Mr Beasley will find in the Motherland many like-minded men in office today, for he comes from the people. For 18 years a leader of Australian trade unions, he has been President of the New South Wales Labour Council for the past seven years.

Mr Beasley has brought to London his four children, and the Beasley family are now beginning to explore London for the first time. He is a total abstainer and non-smoker, and Londoners will find him very much one of themselves. John Beasley often says that there is no difference between a good Australian accent and a good Cockney accent!

He began life as an electrician, mending switches and fuses, and gradually worked himself up into a position of authority in his trade union. He, like all men who are good with their hands, puts love of family in front of all preferences.

John Beasley is one of the hardest workers in Australia. He has been known to keep a negotiating committee working for 18 hours, although one of his chief aims in life has been to reduce the number of working hours for the ordinary man.

RADAR SEARCH FOR OIL

AMONG the hills and dales between Bath and the outskirts of London, experts are now prospecting for oil. This particular belt is being explored not because oil is known to exist there but because the geological structure there is favourable to the accumulation of oil.

This region is now being surveyed by parties who are making use of an instrument which searches for potential oilfields. With much of the ingenuity of radar, this "magic box," as it is called, passes an electric current into the ground. The rebound-waves are then measured and the presence of oil can be detected as the rebound from oil-saturated rocks differs from those from other formations. Even then, of course, the experts cannot be sure that it is oil they have struck until a boring has been made.

ALL-WEATHER AIRLINE

EVERY day in spite of the fogs and gales of winter a Dakota of R A F Transport Command makes its flight from Prestwick Transatlantic air terminus to London. Since the service was started in September only one of 210 scheduled trips has been missed. The journey takes only 2¼ hours, an important saving for statesmen, officials, and diplomatic mail from America.

This "all weather service," as it is officially called, is known to the pilots as the "twitch airline." It has completely overcome fog, and almost every known radio, radar, and other safety device is used.

JOHN INNES MARCHES ON

THE John Innes Horticultural Institution at Merton is to move to Bayfordsbury, Herts. Many C N readers, we are sure, are wondering what this institution is and what it does.

It is named after a member of the Stock Exchange who was well known and well loved in Merton fifty years ago. He was a wealthy bachelor who worked in a local Boys' Club. He died in 1904, and left funds for a public park, playing fields, scholarships, and the Horticultural Institution which bears his name.

This now famous organisation, in simple language, is concerned with the promotion of gardening—by practice, by teaching, and, at the root, by research. The main field of its research is the breeding of garden plants on a foundation of knowledge, that is to say, not only how a plant grows, but what it is, and what it, and its descendants, will become.

In 1910 a new direction was imparted to this inquiry by the new ideas in the study of heredity in plants, based upon the laws laid down by Mendel. Gregor Mendel was an Austrian German, born in Silesia, who became Abbot of the Augustinian House at Brünn. His peasant father had taught him how to graft fruit trees, so in the cloister garden he felt quite at home. There he carried out experiments on the variations of plants which arose from cross-breeding. The plants he selected were those of the common green pea, peas which grew tall and those which grew short. He found that his crossbreds in following generations followed particular laws. About these laws he wrote a very clear and learned paper for the Brünn Society 80 years ago. The society pigeon-holed and lost it. But about the beginning of this century the lost was found; and it enlisted a most ardent disciple in Professor William Bateson, who defended these Principles of Heredity against all comers in England.

The Principles had a hard struggle for this second life, but Bateson on becoming Director of John Innes in 1910 fought so hardily for them that he at last established a new science of Genetics on their basis. Genetics gets its name from "gene," a gene being one of the elements of which a plant germ contains a pair, one from each parent.

Genetics has travelled far since this beginning, and since its extension into many fields during Bateson's lifetime and under his successor, Sir Daniel Hall. Dr C. D. Darlington succeeded Sir Daniel in 1942, and under his direction the science has travelled far wider. It begins now with the probing of the plant cell as far as the behaviour of the microscopic fragments of the life stuff of the cell just before they form daughter cells.

Plant Genetics enable the plant breeder to foresee in part what his plant will be like, and to select those from them suitable for further breeding. There are many other things in a plant besides tallness and shortness. Structure, colour, sex, seed are some of them, and Genetics finds out, from the germ cell, which hides them all, the relationships between those elements which give birth to them. The search is the first thing, the results when applied are its vindication.

Quite early this new science of Genetics gave mankind Biffen's wheat. In time it may reform our standard loaf.

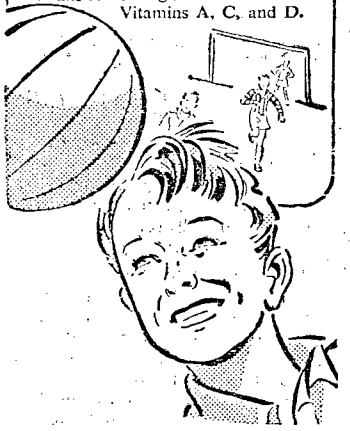
It also led to the discovery that if raspberry canes are to be preserved from dying from disease (a virus disease) they had best be grown from seeds; that sweet cherries and some apples and pears had better be grown apart from their own varieties, so as to be pollinated by other varieties, and how to get the best sweet corn.

The Young Barnstormers

MEMORIES of the Victorian "Barnstormers" were revived at the Derbyshire village of Hayfield recently when members of the Saturday Club (children aged 7—11) presented three one-act plays, by the light of oil lamps, in an old barn at an outlying farm. The plays were St George and the Dragon (a traditional mummers' play), The Mad Hatter's Tea Party (from Alice in Wonderland), and The Tall, Tall Castle.

The children were largely responsible for their own stage arrangements, and adapted a motor-car headlamp for use as a spotlight. The club, which was formed some time ago, has been meeting at members' houses on Saturday evenings and practising little plays; they were encouraged by their parents, and decided to give a show of their own, which may be the forerunner of more ambitious ones.

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THE BRAN TUB

Father Jacko in Trouble



THE floods were out and Father Jacko, taking a short cut home, was cut off by the rising waters. Hearing his shouts the family ran to the edge of the flood. Jacko and Chimp's home-made boat—at which everyone had laughed when they made it—was nearby. "Man the lifeboat!" shouted Jacko, and soon their little craft was stoutly riding the wavelets. Luckily, Father Jacko was a good balancer and he held on by his toes till the rescuers reached him, feeling very pleased with themselves.

THE FINE DAY

MOTORIST: A fine morning, sir, isn't it?

Magistrate: It is. Two guineas, to be precise.

Maxim to Memorise

A FOOL throws a stone into the sea; a hundred wise men cannot pull it out.

Riddles About the Sea

WHY is the sea restless? *Because its bed is rocky.*

What is the first thing you do if you fall into the sea? *Get wet.*

What sea is the most comfortable on a rainy day? *Adriatic (a dry attic).*

When is the sea treacherous? *When it is full of craft.*

Changed His Mind

"WHAT do you want here?" said the owner to a tramp who had scrambled over the garden wall just in time to escape the house dog.

"Madam," replied the tramp with dignity, "I did intend to ask for something to eat, but all I beg now is that, in the interest of humanity, you will feed your dog."

PANTO PATTER

A PANTOMIME king in a rage
Condemned to the gallows his page,
Then relented and cried
He could choose how he died.
Said the lad, "Then I'll die of old age."

Puzzle This Out

WHEN tomorrow is yesterday, today will be as far from the end of the week as was today from the beginning of the week when yesterday was tomorrow.

What day is today?

Wednesday

PARTY PIECE

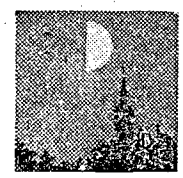
HERE is a change from the spot dance—fun for a big party.

Instead of stopping the dancing, music is continuous, the prize going to the couple who never smile at the same instant.

This condition remains a secret, of course, except to an appointed umpire, and curiosity about it grows as he turns one happy couple after another off the floor seemingly without any settled plan, though he turns them off directly he notices both partners smile at once.

Other Worlds

IN the morning Jupiter is in the south-west. In the evening Mars and Saturn are in the south-east, and Uranus is in the south. The picture shows the moon as it may be seen at six o'clock on Saturday evening, February 9.



FACTS ABOUT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

THE Republic (also known as Santo Domingo or San Domingo), with an area of 19,325 square miles, occupies the western two-thirds of the West Indian island of Haiti (formerly called Hispaniola). This island was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492, and in 1496 his brother Bartholomew founded the capital city of the present republic, San Domingo (now called Ciudad Trujillo), which is thought to be the oldest white men's city in the Americas. Its population today is 71,297.

The Dominican Republic has a population of 1,768,163, mostly people of mixed African, European, and local Indian ancestry.

The Dominican Republic is a beautiful land of mountains, green valleys, forests, and broad plains. The highest peak is Mount Tina, 10,300 feet. The soil is wonderfully fertile, and produces rich crops of sugar, cocoa, coffee, tobacco, and cotton. Natural mineral wealth includes copper, gold, and silver.

The country has had a turbulent history, having been ruled at different times by Spain and France; and by the people of the neighbouring republic of Haiti from 1822 to 1844, when the present Dominican Republic was formed.

Tongue-Twister

FEEBLE Fanny flicked fluffy feathers from three fat fowls the frail friars filched.

Children's Hour

B B C programmes from Wednesday, February 6, to Tuesday, February 12.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Regional Round—'Mac' will set problems to teams of children all over the country. 5.40 That Reminds Me—a talk by 'Observer.' 5.50 Prayers.

THURSDAY, 5.0 The Case of the Tuneful Tinker; followed by An 18th-Century Aviary—piano music played by Patrick Piggott. *North, and Northern Ireland,* 5.0 Ulster Magazine; followed by a talk; About Musical Boxes; a Competition; and a Nature talk.

FRIDAY, 5.0 The Gay Dolphin Adventure (Part 5). 5.45 Four Hands in Harmony—Tony Lowry and Clive Richardson.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Little Sammy Pig—a story for the tinies; followed by Dobson and Young.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Hospital Sunday in India; followed by Too Small—a play. 5.30 Hymn-singing. *Northern Ireland,* 5.0 Mr. Murphy of the Fairy Glen; followed by a Nature Quiz.

MONDAY, 5.0 Said the Cat to the Dog (No 4). 5.25 Music at Random. 5.40 Nature Talk by Dr Vevers. *Midland,* 5.0 Making a Carpet; followed by Music For the Dance; and King Winter and His Three Sons. *Scottish,* 5.0 The Glasgow Orpheus Choir.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Peter Rabbit—a story; followed by Songs; and Muffin and Crumpet—a story of two cats. 5.40 F. N. S. Creek, the Sports Coach, on Lessons From This Season's Soccer Matches. *Welsh,* 5.0 Serial story in Welsh.

An Arithmetic Catch

WHAT is half of 2 and 2?

Three. (Half of two is one and one and two equal three.)

DAYS OF PLENTY

TEACHER: What did Columbus prove by standing an egg on end?

Pupil: That eggs were then cheap enough and plentiful enough to be handled carelessly.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Early-Blooming Coltsfoot. "They're not Dandelions," said Don. "Well, what are they?" demanded Ann.

"Coltsfoot!" answered Farmer Gray, overhearing Ann's question. "They are one of the first flowers to bloom," continued the farmer, "but although like Dandelions in appearance, they belong to different groups. Coltsfoot flowers appear before the leaves, which is unusual in the plant world. The leaves are heptagonal, meaning seven-sided. When ruffled by the wind, a white down, which covers the under-side of the leaf, is exposed. This reminds us of the shaggy hair round a colt's foot, and thus the plant gets its name. Coltsfoot is detested by farmers."

Wasting Away

"I SING only for my friends."
"Have you any left?"

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

In Reverse
Moor, room

Good Conduct Money
16

R	E	E	F		S	L	A	M		
A	P	E		A	S	I	D	E		
S	O	L	I	D		G	O	T		
P	C		S	A	S	H		E		
	H	E	L	M	E	T	S			
P		T	E	A	R		W	A		
A	S	H		N	E	W	E	L		
C	H	E	S	T		H	E	M		
T	Y	R	E		P	O	T	S		

Helen *lives* **every moment**



Playtime is never dull while Helen sets the pace. She is a favourite at school, joyously carefree . . . alert . . . *alive!*

Helen is "a picture of health," says Mother, who has always made it a simple rule to give her a dose of 'California Syrup of Figs' when biliousness or constipation have shown the need. 'California Syrup of Figs' is ideal for children. It is the laxative they like. It quickly regulates the system.

"California Syrup of Figs"

"Bermaline" BREAD

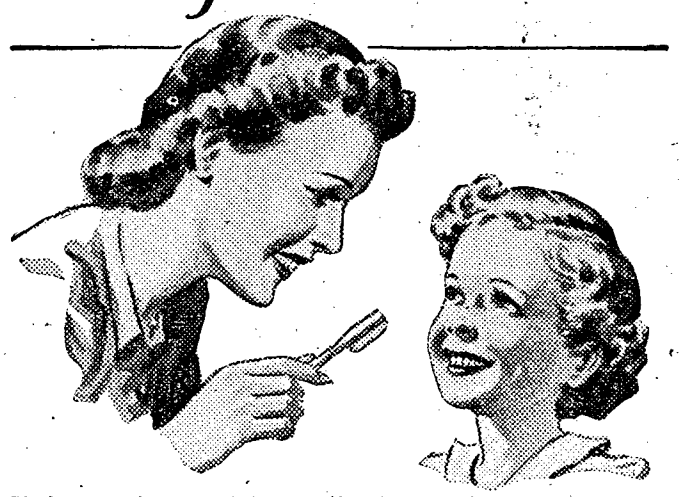
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